

# THE REHEARSAL.

1. The Deposing Power better in the Pope than in the People, if in the People they gave it to the Pope.
2. The People cannot Re-assume it, without Altering the Constitution: According to the Doctrin of the Whiggs.
3. The Oath of Allegiance ABJURES it, as Impious, Heretical and Damnable, either in Pope or People.
4. Why they Swear that Oath to be Administred by a Lawfull Authority.
5. The Whigg-Puss Hang'd.
6. The Observator calls the due Execution of the Law (upon a Presbyterian) Persecution, Oppression, Jacobitism, Popery and Atheism.
7. But Necessary and Just against those of the Episcopal Perswasion.

WEDNESDAY, November 24. 1708.

*Country-man.* **H**ave you any more to say, Master, as to the Oath of Allegiance, that it is not only against the Deposing Power in the Pope, but in the People too?

(1.) *Rehearsal.* I love not to stand alone, especially in Ticklish points. Therefore I will give you an Authority far better than Mine, That it were better to be Allow'd in the Pope, than in the People. Tho' that Sounds Oddly in Old England. But it was Wrote in Scotland, in the Year 1673. And you know, That since that time, *Tempora Mutantur, et nos Matamur in Ilis.* It was thus said then by the Professor of Divinity at Glasgow, in his *Vindication of the Church and State of Scotland*, p. 68, 69. Less disorder may be apprehended from the pretensions of the Roman Bishops, than from those Maxims that put the Power of Judging and Controlling the Magistrate in the Peoples hands; which opens a Door to Endless Confusions, and indeed sets every Private Person upon the Throne, and Introduceth an Anarchy, which will never admit of Order or Remedy: Whereas those that have but one Pretender over them, cou'd more Easily deal with him, and more vigorously Resist him.

But further, if it were ever in the People, it is Run from them into the Pope, for thus says the same Excellent person, in his Sermon upon the 30th of January, 1680, *There-solving all Power in the People,* was first taken up by the Assertors of the Pope's Deposing Power, for they Argu'd, that if it belong'd to the People, then the Pope Representing the Universal Church, all their Rights did Accrue to him, so

that in their Names, he might Dispose of Crowns as he Pleas'd.

(2.) *Country-m.* Then I find 'tis as Broad as Long, for it must come to the Pope still! And can the People (after they turn Protestant) take their Word again, and Alter the Constitution they have once Establish'd? Then they may Alter every Day, and we can have no Settl'd Constitution at all! This is what you have often told me, That upon the Foot of the People ther can be no Settlement, but Perpetual and Endless Revolutions, as the Caprice or Humour of the People, or the Designs of Leading-Men among them, shall Blow them into Ferment, as Winds raise Storms in the Sea. For which Reason, you have Search'd into an Higher and Fixt Rule of Government, whose Original and Obligation is Divine. And (I blefs God,) it has stood the Shock of all its Enemies, and Triumph'd over them. A happy Day for Britain! And you have made it Evident, That this is Infinitely more for the Good and Safety of the People, than to have the Power left in their own Hands; which they never did, or Ever can make use of, but to Worry and Devour one another, as now in Poland. And you have shew'd, That the Great End for which God did Institute Government, was, To save the People out of their own Hands. Yet how do some now among Us Labour to have it Plac'd there again! And may be see not the Confusion that would follow! Nay, Feeling will not do it, where People are given up. For you have Convinc'd me, That ther is Witch-Craft in this Sin. We see it. Poland is yet

yet Fond of the Power of the People ! And our *Whiggs* are Running after it as Fast as they Can ! As they say, Men are most Earnest and *Cunning*, when they are Pursuing their own *Ruin* !

(3.) *Rehears*. Ther must be *Witch-Craft* in it (and of a more than ordinary Size) if Men will still Adhere to that *Doctrine* which they have *Abjur'd*, as *Impious*, *Damnable*, and *Heretical*, and which they *Swear* to *Abhor* and *Detest* from their *Hearts* ! And in this *Oath* of *Allegiance* they say further, *And all these things I do Plainly and Sincerely Acknowledge, and Swear, according to these Express Words by me Spoken; And according to the Plain and Common Sense and Understanding of the same Words; without any Equivocation, or Mental Evasion, or Secret Reservation whatsoever. And I do make this Recognition and Acknowledgement, Heartily, Willingly, and Truly, upon the Faith of a Christian. SO HELP ME GOD, &c*

*Country-m.* Nay more, It is further Guarded yet: For it is said, *And I do Believe and in my Conscience am Resolu'd, that neither the Pope, nor any Person whatsoever, hath Power to Absolve me of this Oath, or any Part thereof; Which I acknowledge by Good and Full Authority to be Lawfully Administred unto me; And do Renounce all Pardons and Dispensations to the Contrary.* These are the Words of the *Oath*. But, *Master*, what is the Meaning of *Swearing*, That the *Oath* was *Lawfully Administred*, and by a *Good and Full Authority* ?

(4.) *Rehears*. Because some Men think ther is no *Obligation* in an *Oath*, that is, not *Lawfully Impos'd*; And it cannot be *Lawfully Impos'd*, Unless it be done by a *Good and Full Authority*. Otherwise they think it is no more than an *Oath Impos'd* by *High-Way-Men*, all *Force*, and that it *Obliges* only to *Repentance*.

*Country-m.* And by this not only the Pope his *Dispensing-Power*, but likewise that of the People is *Abjur'd*, of any Person whatsoever. So that I cannot *Dispense* with myself from any Part of this *Oath*. Nothing can be stronger Guarded than this. All *Starting-Holes* are Stopt.

*Rehears*. And can any think, That the *Law* which Enjoin'd this *Oath*, did Allow of that same *Doctrine* (of *Coercion* and *Deposing KING'S*) which it here *Abhors*, *Detest*, and *ABJURES*, as *Impious*, *Heretical* and *Damnable* !

(5.) *Country-m.* You have *Hang'd* the *Whigg-Puff's* in your former *Laws*. And you have kept this Last, as a *Mill-Stone*, to tye about her Neck——

*Rehears*. But *Country-Man*, What is become of our *Observator*? He has forsaken my Company quite.

(6.) *Country-m.* He likes None of your Company, *Master*. He says you make him *Mumble Thistles*. He's got into *Ireland*, and is very Angry that the *Act of Uniformity* has laid hold of a *Presbyterian* Preacher there, who cou'd not keep within his Bounds in the *North*, but wou'd needs go and set up a *Conventicle* under my *Lord Primat's Nose*, in the very *Town* where his *Palace* stands. And in his of the 17 Instant, Num. 79. he calls putting the *Law* in Execution against this Man a *Persecution*, and *Attacking* the whole *Party*, not only in *Ireland*, but in *Scotland*, and in *Silesia* too. He brings them All into the Quarrel. He calls it *Oppression*, and putting a Note of *Bastardy* upon them. And no less than *Jacobitism*, *Papery*, and *Atheism* !

(7.) *Rehears*. This is a Respectful Treatment of the Government and the *Laws* ! He wou'd have the *Queen* to *Dispense* with the *Laws*, and stop the Execution of the *Law*, in favour of one Single *Presbyterian* in *Ireland*; But not to Bate an *Ace*, or Hinder the Violence of the *Kirk* in *Scotland*, against the whole Body of the *Episcopal Clergy* there, all of whose *Meeting-Houses* they have shut up. And will not let it be Call'd *Persecution*, because it is according to *Law* ! But more of this next time we Meet.

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